

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 134466
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-----126134 261528Z /42

P 261513Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 134466

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: CULTURAL EXCHANGES - WITTENBERG CHOIR

REF: STATE 112741

1. WITTENBERG CHOIR DIRECTOR JOHN WILLIAMS TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT MAY 24 TO REQUEST HELP IN CONVEYING TO GOSKONTSERT HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR LATEST OFFER -- LODGING, LOCAL TRANSPORTATION, MEALS AND TWO RUBLES PER DIEM FROM JUNE 20 THROUGH JULY 2 IN RETURN FOR 6 CONCERTS IN TALLINN, MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD -- AND FOR RAM US TOUR IN 1979. HE RECEIVED OFFER IN TELEGRAMS FROM GOSK MAY 12 AND 13. ON MAY 15 AND 16 (FOR SAFETY) HE SENT IDENTICAL TELEGRAMS TO USTIN AT GOSK ACCEPTING TERMS AND ASKING THEM TO MAIL CONTRACT TO HIM FOR SIGNING. ON MAY 24 HE WAS STARTLED TO RECEIVE ANOTHER TELEGRAM FROM GOSK ASKING WHETHER HE ACCEPTS OFFER. HE REPLIED SAME DAY REPEATING ACCEPTANCE, BUT REQUESTS EMBASSY CONTACT GOSK TO BE SURE MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

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2. WILLIAMS ASKS THAT CONTRACT BE SENT EXPRESS TO HIS HOME, 4522 LAREDO STREET, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45503. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME, BACK-UP ARRANGEMENT IS

NEEDED. WE SUGGEST THAT COPY ALSO BE SENT TO SOVIET EMBASSY CULTURAL COUNSELOR DYUZHEV AND THAT WILLIAMS COME

TO WASHINGTON TO SIGN IF TIME GROWS SHORT. GROUP PLANS
TO LEAVE OHIO AND US ON JUNE 11 AND TO ENTER USSR VIA
SHIP AT TALLINN AFTER VISITING HAMBURG, LUBECK, STOCKHOLM
AND HELSINKI.

3. CHOIR'S ITINERARY IN USSR NOW AS FOLLOWS:

JUNE 20-25 - TALLINN, FOUR CONCERTS.

JUNE 25-29 - MOSCOW, ONE CONCERT.

JUNE 29 - JULY 4 - LENINGRAD, ONE CONCERT.

ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOSK END JULY 2 AND GROUP WILL REMAIN
TWO MORE DAYS ON COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH INTOURIST.

4. ALTHOUGH HEAVY PERFORMING SCHEDULE IN TALLINN WILL
LEAVE LITTLE TIME FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, WILLIAMS HOPES
THAT IN OTHER CITIES MEETINGS AND SINGING SESSIONS WITH
SOVIET STUDENTS WHICH HE HAS DISCUSSED WITH FRIENDSHIP
ASSOCIATION CAN BE ARRANGED. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY
CONVEYING THIS REQUEST TO GOSKONTSEK AND FRIENDSHIP
ASSOCIATION AS APPROPRIATE.

5. PLEASE ADVISE. VANCE

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